

LINCOLN CHAFEE U.S. SENATOR RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, April 26, 2004 CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan 202 224-6167

CHAFEE ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR CHILDREN'S VACCINES

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has notified him that the Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health will receive a \$1,029,101 grant from the Centers for Disease Control Prevention. The money will be used to purchase all recommended vaccines for the children of the State of Rhode Island.

"I am pleased that this money is being made available to ensure that all Rhode Island's children and young adults have access to proper vaccinations regardless of their ability to pay for them." Chafee said.

The funds will be used to provide the full complement of vaccines to children from the ages of birth to eighteen whose families do not have the means to pay for them. The children assisted by these funds will primarily be those who are Medicaid eligible, uninsured, or underinsured. The program also provides vaccines for Native Americans and Alaska natives. The federal grant is supplemented by funds from the State of Rhode Island and insurance providers to make available vaccines for all the children of Rhode Island. In total, about 600,000 doses per year are provided to Rhode Island's children.